

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Original) A latching mechanism arranged to receive a locking member of a
2 lock, the mechanism comprising a means for blocking movement of the
3 locking member in a first direction and permitting movement of the locking
4 member in the first direction by movement in a direction transverse to the
5 first direction and a pawl engagemenable with the blocking means, the
6 pawl being electrically controllable in order to selectively control operation
7 of the blocking means.

- 1 2. (Original) A latching mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the
2 mechanism further comprises an electrical actuator which is in contact with
3 an index member to electrically control the pawl, the index member and the
4 pawl member each being provided with a plurality of protrusions.

- 1 3. (Original) A latching mechanism according to claim 1 wherein the actuator
2 is a piezo electric actuator.

- 1 4. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to claim 1~~or 2~~,
2 wherein movement of the actuator causes alignment between protrusions
3 of the pawl and protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching
4 mechanism to be in a locked condition.

- 1 5. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to claim 1~~or 2~~,
2 wherein movement of the actuator causes misalignment of the protrusions
3 of the pawl and the protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching
4 mechanism to be in an unlocked condition.

- 1 6. (New) A latching mechanism according to claim 2, wherein movement of
2 the actuator causes alignment between protrusions of the pawl and

3 protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be
4 in a locked condition.

1 7. (New) A latching mechanism according to claim 2, wherein movement of
2 the actuator causes misalignment of the protrusions of the pawl and the
3 protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be
4 in an unlocked condition.